

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PETERSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

PROPOSED CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM IS FLAWED

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, later this week the House is going to vote on a bill that claims to reform our campaign finance laws.

Is there too much money in politics? Yes. No one knows that better than the candidates who have to raise it. But the Shays-Meehan bill uses a chain saw where we need a scalpel. This bill goes way beyond regulating the way we contribute to candidates.

The Supreme Court ruled long ago that political donations are constitutionally protected speech. But even if that were not true, surely talking about our elected officials is protected by the first amendment.

But Shays-Meehan supporters are not talking about the provisions in this bill that limit free speech, but those provisions are there. This bill would make it a crime for any citizens group, other than a political action committee, to criticize, praise or even mention a political candidate 60 days before an election.

Madam Speaker, this is an outrage. How dare we even suggest this? The freedom of speech is our most cherished freedom, and it is most important when it comes to choosing our leaders. Madam Speaker, the Shays-Meehan bill is flawed and unconstitutional in this regard.

PAT WOOD SHOULD RESIGN AS CHAIRMAN OF FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

(Mr. PASCRELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, tonight we begin our debate on campaign finance reform. How fitting that this argument is occurring amidst the investigation into the power wielded by the leaders of Enron Corporation. What a perfect example of the corruption of money in politics.

Last week I reached out to Pat Wood, III, the current Chair of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. I urged him to resign.

In light of the influence that Kenneth Lay, the former CEO of Enron Corporation, had over both his appointment to FERC and his subsequent chairmanship of the Commission, it is apparent that Pat Wood's ability to fairly and neutrally oversee the country's energy policies has been irrevocably compromised.

These are just some of the facts surrounding Pat Wood's appointment to FERC. One, Ken Lay interviewed all potential nominees to FERC and presented the President's personnel director with a list of top choices; two, on that list were two of the present Commissioners, Pat Wood, III, and Ms. Nora Brownell; three, a "litmus test" was presented to potential Commissioners during these interviews wherein the nominees were made aware that they must either promote Enron's interests or not receive the appointment, and this is outrageous; and, four, Pat Wood, III, was Kenneth Lay's choice to replace Curtis Hebert.

This is just the beginning and one of the reasons why we need campaign finance reform. These are the facts, not fiction.

REFORM CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAWS

(Mr. CLEMENT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CLEMENT. Madam Speaker, 218 signatures. Two hundred eighteen signatures. That is what it took to finally force the Republican leadership to bring campaign finance reform to the floor of this body.

In America we have a substantial number of people who do not vote in elections, who do not participate in elections. Why? Because of the influence of big money.

Should we not base it on the richness of message, rather than the richness of someone's pocketbook? In other countries, many countries of the world, they vote more, they participate more. But we have all this soft money, and you cannot trace that soft money. That is the difficulty and the problem that so many people are having, because it ends up in all these political campaigns all over the country, but you cannot trace it.

We have an opportunity this week, knowing that we have not even had the opportunity to reform since the 1970s, but we have an opportunity this week to bring about campaign finance re-

form. They have already passed it in the United States Senate. We can do the same thing in the United States House of Representatives, and we can we can do it by saying to all concerned that we want to give everyone an opportunity to participate in the electoral process, no matter who you are or where you live.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6, rule XX.

Any record vote on postponed questions will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules, but not before 6:30 p.m. today.

PERMITTING USE OF ROTUNDA OF CAPITOL FOR CEREMONY AS PART OF COMMEMORATION OF DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE OF VICTIMS OF HOLOCAUST

Mr. NEY. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 325) permitting the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 325

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring). That the rotunda of the Capitol is authorized to be used on April 9, 2002, for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust. Physical preparations for the ceremony shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as the Architect of the Capitol may prescribe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY).

Mr. NEY. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise here today for consideration of House Concurrent Resolution 325, which permits the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the Days of Remembrance of the victims of the Holocaust.

The United States Memorial Council was charged with providing appropriate ways for the Nation to commemorate the Days of Remembrance as an annual national civic commemoration of the Holocaust. As a result of this legislation, the first ceremony in remembrance was held in the rotunda in 1979, and it has been held every year since that time, except for periods when the rotunda was closed for renovations.